

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 PM-07 L-03

SS-20 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07 SCI-06

OMB-01 /138 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB:CLSTERMER:AVW

APPROVED BY EA/TB:JBDEXTER

EA/P:WMAGRUDER (DRAFT)

S/PRS:JKING (DRAFT)

S/NM:JRAFFERTY (DRAFT)

SA/LT:JKRULFELD

AID/OPS:LFRIESZ

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P 142152Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127580

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BM, TH

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION EQUIPMENT

REFS: (A) BANGKOK 9751 (B) RANGOON 1635 (C) STATE 126191

1. APPRECIATE BANGKOK SITUATION (REF A) AND WHEN RELEVANT DOCUMENTS RECEIVED HERE THEY WILL BE FORWARDED ASAP TO RANGOON SO BURMESE, AS SUGGESTED REF B, CAN MAKE PRELIMINARY STUDY BEFORE SENDING HALL. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE, TO AVOID POSSIBLE EMBARRASSMENT AND AWKWARDNESS TO ALL CONCERNED, FOR HALL TO BE IDENTIFIED IN ADVANCE TO BURMESE IN TERMS OF HIS UNUSUAL BACKGROUND (PARA 4, REF C).

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2. QUESTION RAISED REGARDING BURMESE PREFERENCE FOR FMS

PROCUREMENT CHANNEL FOR FOLLOW-ON SPARE PARTS IS TYPE OF ISSUE THAT HALL IS QUALIFIED TO DISCUSS. HE CAN EXPLAIN THAT, BECAUSE OF COMPETITION AMONG SUPPLIERS IN REGION, PRICES FOR SPARE PARTS ARE LOWER COMMERCIALY THAN THROUGH FMS CHANNEL AND THAT DELIVERIES CAN BE MORE EXPEDITIOUS.

3. ON PUBLICITY (PARA 4, REF B), YOUR ASSUMPTION IS CORRECT THAT TEXT OF AGREEMENT WILL BE PUBLISHED AT SOME TIME AND THEREFORE MILITARY CONNOTATIONS CANNOT AND SHOULD NOT BE

SHROUDED THROUGH USE OF DISINGENUOUS LANGUAGE. OUR MAIN CONCERN HAS BEEN TO AVOID TO EXTENT POSSIBLE ANY IMPLICATION THAT THE USG IS RESUMING A MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. TO LESSEN CHANCES FOR THIS POSSIBLE INTERPRETATION AT LATER DATE WHEN HELICOPTERS ARRIVE, AND TO BE ON PUBLIC RECORD AT TIME AGREEMENT IS SIGNED, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE BE ISSUED BY DEPARTMENTAL SPOKESMAN DAY AFTER NOTES ARE EXCHANGED. WE ALSO RECOMMEND THAT BURMESE BE SHOWN THIS TEXT, IF ACCEPTABLE TO YOU, FOR THEIR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

BEGIN TEXT: THE USG SIGNED AN AGREEMENT YESTERDAY WITH THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE SIX UNARMED CIVILIAN MODEL UTILITY HELICOPTERS (BELL 205A) FOR ASSISTANCE IN ITS NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM. THESE HELICOPTERS WILL BE USED PRIMARILY TO AIRLIFT ARMED SECURITY FORCES INTO REMOTE REGIONS TO ATTACK HEROIN REFINERIES & HEAVILY ARMED CARAVANS ENGAGED IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICK. THE HELICOPTERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE DELIVERED IN BURMA SOME TIME IN 1975. THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR ADDITIONAL HELICOPTERS TO BE DELIVERED AT A LATER DATE DEPENDENT ON APPROPRIATED FUNDS AND THE EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF THE HELICOPTERS FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL PURPOSES. NO U.S. GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL WILL BE INVOLVED IN OPERATIONS OR MAINTENANCE OF THE HELICOPTERS, WHICH WILL BE OPERATED BY THE BURMA AIR FORCE. AS IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, WHERE ILLICIT PRODUCTION OR INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING OF NARCOTICS OCCURS; THE UNITED STATES IS ASSISTING BURMA TO BRING THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM UNDER CONTROL. END TEXT. SISCO

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